

DATE 1/12/07

HB 11

From: "Jerry Foreman" <J.Foreman@co.custer.mt.us>
To: j.matthews
Date: 01/04/2007 02:49 PM
Subject: Tuslar Bridge

Hi Gary,

I will try to give you a little history on the Tuslar RR bridge that we talked about yesterday. Also, I have attached some pictures.

Custer County took ownership of the bridge in 1989, along with some of the old railroad bed. We tried to let the traffic use the bridge for a couple of years without putting any decking on it. The ties were not only like driving on a real long cattlesguard, but they started moving apart, leaving up to 12 inch gaps between some of them. We then tried some "expanded metal" decking that would hold the ties together, and give traffic some good traction material. This only lasted a couple of years before the metal started breaking up severely. In 1993, we removed the expanded metal, and installed aircraft landing mat. This lasted two or three years before it started breaking up also. We finally replaced this landing mat with a considerably heavier landing mat. This mat is still in place today. Since the last mat was installed, it has also broken in numerous spots, but rather than replace it, we have patched it with sections of flat in sheets. This is expensive, but not as bad as more landing mat. The landing mat is hard to find, and when we can find it, it usually has to be shipped from California or Texas. Two years ago, during the sugar beet harvest, there was approximately 900 semi loads hauled across the bridge. That compares to 1800 total semi crossings. This bridge is a very important asset to the Kasey farmers, and without it, I have been told, some of the farmers couldn't afford to produce a cash crop. Without going back through all of the old purchase records, my recollection of the amount of money we have spent on the bridge for materials since our takeover, is about \$30,000.00. The bridge is 1000 feet long, and only single lane wide. I hope this gives you some useful background.

Later,
Jerry

Attachments:



File: Tuslar Bridge011.jpg

Size: 430k

Content Type: image/jpeg